

HARRY MATHIESON

- > I shall try to give you a brief resume of Harry and my experience
- > that awful day 12/7/41. Harry and I were very close and we had pretty
- > much the same watches that day so I will be including him in my resume.
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- > We had the same watch schedule as I had. He was in the EVAPORATORS
- > AND I WAS IN THE ICE MACHINE ROOM on that week end. We had the 4 to 8
- > so to speak. We were both relieved ten to fifteen minutes early so as to be
- > ready for the 8 o'clock liberty bust to go ashore. we were both going in to
- > the engineers shower when the general alarm went off. The officer of the
- > deck came on the inter com and announced general quarters. as we were
- > bare naked we didn't have time to go back down to our steaming station to get
- > proper attire we went directly to our battle stations. My station was in the
- > machine shop and Harry was in the EVAPORATORS. The chief in the evaporator
- > told him to go up to repair 8 as that was no place for him. He passed right
- > by me in the machine shop on his way to repair 8. as he was going forward he
- > went on the starboard side of the ship. when the first torpedoes hit he
- > described it to me the dust from the explosion delayed him as he went forward by
- > the time he got to repair 8 the ship was going over and he didn't get a
- > firm feeling as to where he was as it was pitch black. As he made his way
- > out of there and was going up through the escape hatch there were two other
- > sailors ahead of him and as he tried to go through the hatch there were
- > other arms grabbing at his legs. He had to shake them loose and when the ship
- > rolled over he found himself submerged and was seeking air. his head came
- > up in an air pocket. there were three other sailors in the same pocket. after
- > about an hour he decided to swim under water to see if he could find away
- > out. He ran into the breach of a five inch broad side gun and started out
- > along the barrel when he ran in the hausers that were used to tie the ship up
- > and was scared so he returned back to where he came from. When he bumped
- > into their legs they pulled him up. They discussed what he learned so two of
- > them left and made their way out. he never saw them again. Then he left as the
- > air was getting very stale the remaining sailor was crying as he said he
- > didn't know how to swim. Harry made his way out and he said his lungs were at
- > the breaking point when he broke to the surface. A whale boat came by
- > and took him ashore to Ford Island.